



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## GENDER AND YOUTH TANZANIA

Youth under 15 years of age comprise 45 percent of Tanzania's current population of over 53 million (World Bank, 2015). At the current growth rate, Tanzania's population is projected to reach 70 million by 2025. Despite these numbers, women and youth are among the most marginalized and underutilized Tanzanian citizens. Enabling gender equality and empowering women and youth are important, as the two groups play a key role in the progress and growth of Tanzania. Tanzanian females and youth must have greater access to and control over resources, opportunities, and decision-making power in order to sustainably reduce extreme poverty, build healthy communities, and promote inclusive growth.

The Gender Equality and Youth Inclusion Project, or *Tumaini* ("Hope" in Kiswahili), serves the critical unifying role of integrating gender equality, women's empowerment, and youth inclusion across a broad range of USAID activities. USAID's activities in these areas focus on strengthening the national-level enabling environment for women and youth, increasing the promotion of women's equality and youth inclusion at the local government and community levels, and ensuring that Tanzanian women and youth are healthier, better educated, and more productive. *Tumaini* encompasses activities focused on youth empowerment in agriculture, providing friendly and accessible health services, ensuring girls enroll in and complete secondary school, and the integration of human rights and social inclusion programming.

### CHALLENGES

The Government of Tanzania has adopted policies that advance gender equality and youth inclusion in a rhetorically-supportive enabling environment. The legal and regulatory framework and the sector-specific policies of government ministries and independent departments need to be brought into

## GENDER AND YOUTH OVERVIEW

### MAJOR PARTNERS

- Women in Law and Development Africa
- UN Women
- Africare
- FHI360
- World Education, Inc.
- PACT, Inc.
- EngenderHealth
- International Youth Foundation
- International Institute for Education
- UNICEF

### CONTACT

Jessica Lopez  
jelopez@usaid.gov

Jennifer Erie  
jerie@usaid.gov

alignment with these policies. Amendment of the Age of Marriage Act to increase the minimum age for females to marry to 18 is critical. Reforms for female- and youth-positive legal and policy reform requires well-trained parliamentarians, policy analysts, and researchers. Civil society also plays an important role in advising on the development of such laws and policies, as well as advocating for their adoption and implementation.

## IMPACT

*Tumaini* integrates gender equality, women's empowerment, and youth inclusion across several USAID activities, supporting public policy dialogues and advocacy activities by civil society partners that enable females, youth, and their allies to advocate for gender and youth-positive policies and services. The project also includes Let Girls Learn, a whole-of-government initiative to improve enrollment and retention of adolescent girls in educational programs. Implementation will begin fall 2016.

In FY 2015, USAID continued its efforts to integrate gender equality and youth into all of its activities. Some highlights included:

- In FY 2016, USAID's work with Women in Law and Development in Africa supported legal aid clinics and built the capacity of the legal aid secretariat to prepare it to eventually execute its mandate independently.
- USAID's Women in Agriculture Research and Development (AWARD) Program works to empower women in leadership in the field of agriculture in Africa. In FY 2015, AWARD supported 31 Tanzanian women scientists through a fellowship program.
- USAID also supported the Women's Leadership and Political Participation Project implemented by the United Nations Fund for Women, which worked to increase female participation in the 2015 elections and institutionalize gender and inclusive perspectives within political party structures, practices, and electoral processes. In FY 2015, the activity trained 1,282 aspirants (845 women, 360 youth, and 77 persons with disabilities) representing 17 political parties.